



# the white cockade



July - August 2025



Gillian Beattie (left) and Denise Cunningham are all smiles  
at the Heather Spring Tea Dance

Photo by Kerry McDevitt

## RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors

Elected at the RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM on October 11, 2024

### Executive Directors

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President - Gail Urquhart                 | 604.433.6081 |
| Vice President - Paul Shrimpton           | 604.469.2433 |
| Corresponding Secretary - Karen Shrimpton | 604.469.2433 |
| Recording Secretary - Sue Biddle          | 604.619.1620 |
| Treasurer - Susan Stensgaard              | 604.451.1161 |

### Directors-at-Large (with specific responsibilities)

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Past President - Fran Hillier        | 778.285.1242 |
| Publicity - Cathrine Conings         | 604.299.6447 |
| Membership - Roberta Esau            | 778.317.4125 |
| Events Coordinator - Margaret Gorham | 416.924.4348 |
| Equipment Manager - Seoris Harrison  | 604.263.0493 |
| Director at Large - Ally Huang       | 604.299.0160 |
| Archivist - John Robertson           | 604.985.1612 |

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RSCDS Vancouver - [www.rscdsvancouver.org](http://www.rscdsvancouver.org) - Scottish Cultural Centre

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 4N2 - 604.263.9911

## Frae the President

Since the last newsletter, the dancing year has been drawing to a close. Under the watchful eye of Fran Hillier, we enjoyed our first Heather Spring Tea Dance. The dance was well attended and, from what we've heard, attendees enjoyed the format. Rounding out the dance year were the Fort Langley and White Rock dances.

As I write this Scotfest is only a few weeks away. Sadly, the Heritage Stage (which hosted Scottish as well as various multicultural groups) has been cut. Consequently, this year the plaza will host both our social dancing and the demonstration team. Practice sessions are in full swing – thank you to all the dancers who are coming to the practices. So far the long-term weather forecast looks promising...so here's to a great day of dancing al fresco and showing Scotfest attendees the hobby we enjoy!

Speaking of "al fresco", Dancing in the Park starts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Many thanks to Alison Moen for her hard work to make DITP 2025 a reality. With the support of CASC grant from the City of Vancouver and RSCDS Vancouver Branch, we will continue our 75 year tradition of open air summer dancing with live music on several nights – including the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Blackthorn Band, Kilbirnie Station, a pipe band and more. I hope to see you there. "Sensible" shoes are all the rage for DITP – no ghillies required.

I look forward to seeing you at the Highland Games and DITP. Have a relaxing summer and I'll see you on the dance floor in the September.

Gail Urquhart, President, RSCDS Vancouver Branch



### *Upgrades to the Hall*

#### *Stucco Renovation*

Three quotes have been received regarding the renovation of the stucco, the successful one coming in at \$25,000 to complete the whole building,

plus \$4000 to seal around the windows. This needs to be scheduled when it affects the renters the least. The goal is to complete this work over Spring 2026.

#### *The women's bathroom*

We appear to have been awarded \$16,000 towards this from the City (to be confirmed by Council), and we have raised over \$2000 so far (mainly from RSCDS donations). In order to accomplish the most for the money we have, the counters and sinks and flooring will be completed; the room repainted; the handicapped toilet replaced. Then it is anticipated that the rest of the toilets will be replaced in the next couple of years to spread out the costs.

#### *Upstairs Toilet*

One of the toilets off the Caberfeidh room flooded (fortunately clean water). This requires replacement of the toilet and replacement of the subfloor underneath which had warped.

#### *Pictures*

There used to be framed pictures of award winners in various Scottish activities on the west wall in the main hall. These had to be taken down frequently due to possible damage from sports activities. A digital version of these is being completed (to show on the screen in the lobby).

#### *Treasurer's Report*

The SCCS is in a good position financially.

A reminder to societies that September 30<sup>th</sup> is last day for submissions for next year's grants.

#### *Website*

The current SCCS website has to be migrated to a new platform. Work is being completed on a separate "Vancouver Scottish" website that would advertise all SCCS member societies and their activities, with funding links. The current SCCS website which advertises what the hall does (rentals etc) will migrate to the same platform, and have some minor upgrades. For the "Vancouver Scottish" website the goal is to complete by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will keep you informed as it progresses.

Fran Hillier & Jennifer Shearman,  
RSCDS Representatives - SCCS



## Notices

### RSCDS Vancouver Branch Membership

The 2025-26 year begins July 1st. Membership fees are now due! You can pay by credit card online or by cheque. Go to the home page at:

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/>

Click on 'Membership and Class Fees'. You have the option to pay online or download a registration form to mail with your cheque payable to RSCDS Vancouver Branch. Mail to Membership Director, c/o Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 2N2.

We thank you for your continued support of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch, which includes:

- The online bi-monthly Branch newsletter ( The White Cockade)
- The Branch Teacher Certification Program every two years
- Registered membership with RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh
- A twice yearly magazine from RSCDS HQ with information and articles on Scottish country dancing worldwide
- A 10% discount on most recordings, publications & merchandise purchased through the RSCDS shop
- Free admission to our December Betwixt & Between Dance
- Stanley Park 'Dancing in the Park' each summer
- Liability Insurance
- *And much more!*

*In order to receive newsletters, magazines and email bulletins, it is important that contact information is kept up to date. Please send an email message to the Membership Secretary regarding any changes.*

#### Categories and Fees (All Membership Categories expire 30th June)

- Individual or Single \$65
- Joint \$105 – available when two members are at same address
- Half Year Single \$45 – for NEW members joining for the first time after January 1st
- Half Year Joint \$75 – for two NEW members at same address joining for the first time after January 1st

*Remember you need to renew your membership in order to vote at the Branch Annual General Meeting!*



### Mairi Maxwell

December 22, 1937 - May 26, 2025

Mairi passed away at Peace Arch Hospital with her daughters by her side. Born in Rutherglen, Scotland, she married Jim in 1957. They emigrated to Canada in 1967 with their family and made their home in Ladner. Mairi enjoyed photography, Scottish Country Dancing and Old Time Dancing. Mairi was predeceased by Jim, her husband of 67 years. She is survived by daughters Lorraine (Bob), Fiona (Bruce), grandson Donald (Taylor) and great-grandson Wyatt. At Mairi's request there will be no service.

Photo compliments of Mary Ross who tells us:

Mairi was a great friend to all. She and Jim were long time members of the Delta Borderers SCD club. Mairi also created many wonderful videos to share, preserving many memories of Scottish Country and Old Time Dancing events. A salute to a great couple, who most likely would tell us to "Carry on dancing".

## Save the Dates

April 24 - 25, 2026

### Vernon & Naramata Workshop Weekend & Ball

(Stay tuned to the Vancouver Branch website for details)

Saturday afternoon, May 9, 2026

### The White Rock Scottish Country Dance Club

Invites All Dancers to the  
White Rock Annual Spring Tea Dance  
Scottish Cultural Centre, Vancouver.

Details to follow, but please mark your calendars now!  
We look forward to welcoming everyone.

## Dancing in the Park 2025



*Mondays at 7 to 9 p.m. - Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park*

In celebration of 75 years of outdoor dancing in Vancouver and with a CASC grant from the City of Vancouver to support local groups, there will be live music and other displays throughout the summer. We had a great start on June 23rd with the Burnaby club hosting and live music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra. Please join us for lots more fun on:

*July 7 - Vancouver Branch with displays by the  
Vancouver Police Pipe Band and Strictly Scottish Dem Team*

*July 14 - Fort Langley*

*July 21 - Vancouver Branch*

*July 28 - Vancouver Ceilidh with Blackthorn Band*

*August 11 - Glenayre (Coquitlam) with Kilbirnie Station*

*August 18 - North Shore Dance Scottish with a Piper & Grand March*

Come by the carload to reduce parking fees - bring a picnic dinner and come early to avoid the traffic - enjoy the sunset, entertain tourists, and maybe find a few new dancers! Bring your non-dancing friends, relatives, neighbours, and visitors to experience Scottish Country Dancing. Beginner/Tourist friendly dances and favourites for the more experienced dancers, every night.

*See below for more information about weather cancellations & parking.*

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver/dancing-in-the-park/>

*Check the website Event Calendar for updates & programs.*

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver/event-calendar>

## Dancing News & Photos

### Glenayre Spring Dance - April 12th

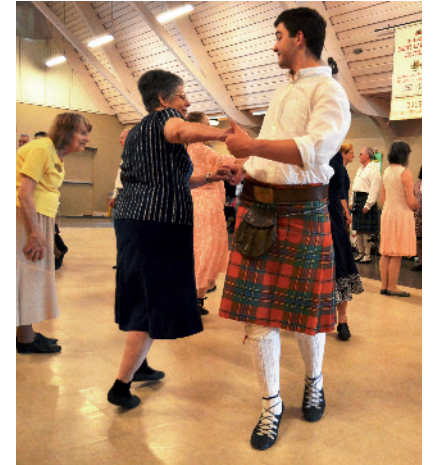


It was a full house at the Glenayre Spring Dance, as dancers from the lower mainland clubs came to celebrate Cathie Devlin's 100th birthday. Fran Hillier and Gail Urquhart kept us on our toes with a program that suited all levels of dancers. As always, it was a warm welcome from the Glenayre club and no shortage of tasty food.





Photos by:  
Kerry & Mary Ann McDevitt





## Vancouver Heather Spring Tea Dance - April 26th

Another great April event was the Heather Spring Tea Dance. This year, the Branch held an afternoon Tea Dance rather than an evening Ball. But still kept some of the pomp and ceremony to make it a special event. The elegant teapot centrepieces on the tables and lovely decorated hall set the gala mood.



The dance started with a Grand March piped in by Vienna Scheyer, one of our very talented musicians from Washington State.





Vienna on fiddle and Guinevere Saenger on Piano with their youthful energy did not disappoint. Their music kept us toe tapping and dancing with a 'spring' in our step to the end. Katherine Shearman and Alison Moen adroitly emceed the dances, and kept the briefing short for a most delightful pace to the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the great program. Chair, Fran Hillier, and her amazing team must be proud!



We look forward to more Heather Spring Tea Dances

## RSCDS Vancouver Branch Appointments

|                                                    |              |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Betwixt & Between Coordinator - Katherine Shearman | 604.671.2480 |
| Burns Supper Chair - Stewart Cunningham            | 604.261.0162 |
| Dancing Coordinator - Frances Caruth               | 604.922.6842 |
| Dancing in the Park Coordinator - Alison Moen      | 604.980.0428 |
| Demonstration Team Director - Kay Sutherland       | 604.929.2745 |
| Demonstration Team Manager - Katherine Sherman     | 604.671.2480 |
| Heather Spring Tea Dance Chair - Fran Hillier      | 778.285.1242 |
| Love to Dance Workshop Chairs - Frances Hillier    | 778.285.1242 |
| - Sue Biddle                                       | 604.619.1620 |
| Newsletter Editor - Mary Ann McDevitt              | 604.929.2944 |
| Nominating Committee Chair - Vicki Downey          | 604.298.9695 |
| Privacy Officer - Peter Richards                   | 604.929.2745 |
| RSCDS Director USCS - Frances Caruth               | 604.922.6842 |
| RSCDS Representatives SCCS - Fran Hillier          | 778.285.1242 |
| - Jennifer Shearman                                | 604.739.3096 |
| Website Manager - Alison Moen                      | 604.980.0428 |

### Other Representatives

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ceilidh Director - Alison Moen    | 604.980.0428 |
| TAC Representative - Fran Hillier | 778.285.1242 |

*Email Contacts for Board of Directors:*

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/about-branch/board-members/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Director's name

*Email Contacts for Branch Board Appointees:*

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/about-branch/board-appointments/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Appointee's name

*or for both Directors & Appointees:*

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/contact/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Events or Branch heading

## Calendar of Events

|                                      |                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday Nights<br>June 23 - August 18 | Dancing in the Park - RSCDS Vancouver<br>Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park |
| August 1 - 3                         | Teachers' Conference W/end - TAC<br>Sherbrooke, Quebec                       |
| August 3 - 10                        | TAC Summer School - Sherbrooke, Quebec                                       |
| Sept 26                              | Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver                                          |
| October 24                           | Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver                                          |
| October 26                           | North Shore Dance Scottish Fall Tea Dance                                    |
| Nov 11                               | Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance - RSCDS Vancouver                                    |
| Nov 28                               | Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver                                          |
| Dec 29                               | Betwixt & Between - RSCDS Vancouver                                          |
| 2026                                 |                                                                              |
| April 24 - 25                        | Vernon/Naramata Workshop & Ball Weekend                                      |
| May 9                                | White Rock Spring Tea Dance                                                  |

Times, dates and venues for events and classes are subject to change or cancellation. Check the Branch website Event Calendar or Club for updates. We hope you will have had all vaccinations available to you.

*Please do not attend if you are sick.*



**deadline for submissions  
to the white cockade**

The Vancouver Branch newsletter is published bi-monthly on the 1st of September, November, January, March, May and July. The deadline for submissions is the 10th day of the preceding month (i.e. August 10th for the September/October issue). We welcome and thank you for your contributions of photos, letters and articles. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits.

Mary Ann McDevitt - 778.986.2944 or [mamcdevitt@shaw.ca](mailto:mamcdevitt@shaw.ca)